

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1291

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Joe Ellis North on the celebration of his eighty-fourth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Joe North will celebrate his eighty-fourth birthday on May 15, 2008, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Mr. North was born and raised in Salem, where he spent much of his youth on the Howard McKee farm and first discovered his lifelong passion of riding horses; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the Murfreesboro community, Joe North worked at several places, including the ACME Paper Company, where he worked alongside Cassius Clay, Jr., who is now known as Muhammad Ali, before deciding to return to his first love of riding horses; and

WHEREAS, for eighteen years, Mr. North served with acumen and alacrity as a hardworking employee of numerous stables and trainers, in which positions he developed his own unique style of working with horses such as Delight's Cracker Jack and Little Dude; he placed second in a horse show in Woodbury, Tennessee on an aged mare, out performing twenty-five of the top riders; and

WHEREAS, from 1972-73, Joe North decided to strike out on his own and established Little "11" Stables; he and his family managed the business for six years, earning the respect of his peers and the horse training business community at large for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, for more than forty years, Mr. North has been an integral part of the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, rendering valuable service to one of this State's most successful enterprises; and

WHEREAS, Joe North's illustrious career would not have been possible without the support he received from Dr. Patterson, Dr. Jones, and Joanne; he also attributes his success to H. Miller, Forest Paschal, Lillard Smotherman, Vick Thompson, Charlie Bobo, Dick Reese, and Lewis T. Bolles, whose masterful works inspired his development as one of the most diverse and popular performers of the last half century, as well as Howard McKee for getting him into horses as a child; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Mr. North has enjoyed the love and companionship of his devoted wife, Shellie North; he is also most grateful for the love and support he receives from his twelve children, Barbara, Lorenzo, Althea, Margaruite, Jimmy, Marvin, Steven, Joseph, Cheryl, Pamela, Richard, and Sabrina; his twenty-three grandchildren; and twenty-one great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Joe Ellis North on the celebration of his eighty-fourth birthday, commend him for his sterling service to the Walking Horse industry and to the State of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.